Novel Return To Be OK'd --Rhodes Aide

S-7-1967

The chief assistant to the governor of Ohio said today that his office is not attempting to keep fugitive witness Gordon Novel from testifying in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy death plot investigation.

John McElroy, assistant to Gov. James A. Rhodes, said the 29-year-old former New Orleans bar owner would be returned as soon as proper extradition papers are filed at Columbus.

"If your governor will get the papers in order, Gov. Rhodes will return him," McElroy declared, adding: "Why don't we get this show on the road and quit talking about it."

AT NEW ORLEANS, Asst. DA James Alcock expressed surprise at McElroy's statement and pointed to a request in Rhodes' recent letter to Gov. John J. McKeithen which says:

"Persistent press reports in Ohio papers state that Dist.

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Atty. Garrison is seeking the extradition of Gordon Novel in order to have him available for questioning or as a witness in the grand jury investigation . . ."

"It would be helpful in your letter of transmittal if your requisition could contain a statement expressly disclaiming the foregoing as the purpose of the extradition."

ALCOCK SAID extradition papers for both Novel and former New Orleans anti-Castro leader Sergio Arcacha Smith are being perfected by the DA's office. He said he hoped to mail both sets of papers to Gov. McKeithen today.

Alcock said the extradition papers for Novel will be "legally proper within the framework of extradition proceedings." They will not bear the requested disclaimer, he added.

Both Novel and Arcacha have been charged with the burglary of a well service company's munitions bunker at Houma in 1961. Garrison has called Novel a "very important witness" in the Kennedy death case.

M'ELROY, ASKED whether his office had been pressured to slow or halt Novel's extradition, replied: "That's a ridiculous question."

"Perhaps you should read the letter," McElroy told a reporter. Informed that a reporter had read it, McElroy asserted: "He'd better read it again. He misinterpreted it."

Novel is free under $10,000 bond at Columbus after his arrest April 1 on Garrison's charge that he conspired with Arcacha to steal munitions from the Houma bunker. Arcacha is free at Dallas under $1,500 bond.

Extradition papers were returned from Ohio and Texas because of what authorities in each state said were technical deficiencies.

At New Orleans, meanwhile, Garrison has subpenaed a 30-year-old onetime close associate of Arcacha to appear tomorrow before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

The latest call for testimony in Garrison's Kennedy death plot investigation was issued for Carlos Quiroga of 3134 Derby pl.

Quiroga's subpena was ordered as Garrison revealed his investigation of the presidential slaying centers on the militant anti-Communist China activities here.

GARRISON YESTERDAY charged the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency with duping the Warren Commission and covering up what he said was the truth behind Kennedy's murder.

His investigation is believed to be pointing toward the possible involvement of CIA—employed persons in the assassination.

The DA called for a U. S. Senate investigation of what he said was misleading information given the Warren Commission by both the CIA and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Cuban sources here described Quirago as an erstwhile close associate of Arcacha, who led the Cuban Revolutionary Council, an anti-Castro organization.

THE CRC WAS headquartered at 544 Camp st., a building which housed the offices of former FBI official Guy Banister whom associates have described as a key government intelligence liaison man in Latin American anti-Communist activities.

Lee Harvey Oswald, the man the Warren Commission blamed as the lone killer of Kennedy, used the same address on left wing pro-Castro leaflets he handed out here during the summer of 1963.

Garrison contends that Oswald was not a Communist, as he was pictured in the Warren Report, but a U.S. intelligence operative who was working closely with anti-Castro Cubans here and in Dallas.

THE GARRISON contention about Oswald was disputed yesterday by Dr. Carlos Bringuier, head of the New Orleans delegation of the Cuban Student Directorate.

He said his organization sent a letter to the House Committee on Un-American Activities several months ago asking it to "investigate Mr. Garrison's investigation."

"This delegation had four encounters with Lee Harvey Oswald in the summer of 1963," Bringuier declared, "and even on Aug. 21 of that year we were asking for a congressional investigation of Oswald as a confessed Marxist."

HE CHALLENGED the CIA and the FBI to "answer charges made against them" by Garrison.

Quiroga has been questioned extensively by the DA's office since the Garrison investigation began. Arcacha, charged with the burglary of munitions from an explosives bunker at Houma, is free on $1,500 bond at Dallas.

Quiroga told the States-Item today that he is "convinced that Oswald was a Communist" and he said that he has "proofs" to this effect.

He said that he first was associated with the CRC in September of 1961 and that is when he met Arcacha.